

The Community Concerns reported at the April 8, 2014 Town Hall meeting hosted by Councilwoman Maggie Lewis identified the following priorities:

#### **Communication**

- Have an information line for residents to call to find out what is going on in the community
- Make sure information regarding resources for victims is easy to find; they need a support system
- Listen to what the youth are saying is happening in their community
- Communication needs to be better between “higher ups” and “boots on the ground”

#### **Community Engagement**

- Law enforcement needs to work with community members
- Community centers need to be supported (financially)
- Work with the “boots on the ground”
- “Higher ups” need to listen to the community
- Crime Watch needs to be in all neighborhoods
- Community members need a safe and easy way to report what they see
- IMPD needs to be seen (go door-to-door) so residents will know them and trust them – build relationships
- Teach community members what they can do to help

#### **Coordination**

- Coordinate services – don’t recreate the wheel
- Consolidate resources and funding for better programs
- Non-profits need to work together and collect meaningful data

#### **Parents/Families**

- Need to find people to be “surrogate families” for youth without families
- Heal the broken family unit
- Parenting classes need to be easily available, and required for families with youth who are in trouble
- Parents need to know where their children are and be more involved with them

#### **Mind Frame**

- Need to change how people think of one another
- Build a moral compass for youth
- Communities need to be hopeful; positive
- Break the inter-generational cycle of crime being a “new norm” for families
- Stop accepting the violence as “normal”
- Hold everyone accountable – from city leaders to parents to everyday people in neighborhoods

#### **Youth**

- Establish Safe Zones for youth; safe places to socialize
- Keep kids in school – find an alternative to suspension; help stop the dropout rate
- Entire community needs to be involved in raising the youth; Youth need reliable mentors
- Summer employment for youth
- Out of school activities for youth
- Teach realistic conflict resolution
- Make sure youth know how valuable they are
- Establish clear paths to higher education

